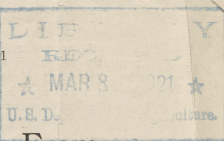


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FEBRUARY 25, 1921



\$1400 Per Acre From "Giant Winter" Rhubarb First Season After Planting

The above are the results obtained in the season of 1919-20 by a Glendale grower **who got his plants from me** in July and August, 1919. He sold his crop through the California Rhubarb Growers' Association, a co-operative organization with offices at 290 Wholesale Terminal Building, 7th and Central Ave., Los Angeles. **You should do as well** if you plant rhubarb and give your plants the proper care.

In one season, from Nov. 28 to June 10, from 2350 plants (equivalent to about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre) set in a young orchard the previous June and July, I sold 675 30-lb. boxes of rhubarb.

The Association has been getting \$2 per box since Jan. 25, which was two weeks earlier than it went to \$2 last year. It remained at \$2 last year through the first week of April. The marketing season starts in the fall and runs till summer.

This variety of rhubarb is called Wagner's Giant Crimson Winter and is a great improvement over the original Burbank's Crimson Winter and being grown from subdivisions instead of from seeds is absolutely uniform, which is a great advantage. It bears the year 'round. In the last two or three years it has run the Northern "Strawberry" Rhubarb completely off the market in Los Angeles, through the efforts of Mr. Brown, the sales manager of the Association. (There is another variety called "Amber" instead of "Crimson" which is not nearly so desirable for several reasons.)

My strain of this rhubarb is the purest that I know of, as I have culled out from the original stock that I got of it about half a dozen false varieties of inferior quality which are to be found in every planting of it not obtained from me that I have seen.

I also never let my rhubarb go to seed, an item of importance in selecting your plants for planting, as seed production weakens the plants and reduces their vitality. Note the following from the Farm Journal for July, 1919: "Seed-stalks which develop upon rhubarb plants ought to be removed before the blossoms set seed. Seed development draws heavily upon the plant. One of the most prevalent causes of failure with rhubarb in the home garden is seed-stalk development. This causes the leaf stems to become smaller and smaller year after year, until it hardly pays to care for the plants."

You should only plant subdivisions of the original stock, as rhubarb does not come true from seed, every plant being different, and seedlings go to seed much worse than subdivisions of the original stock and do not produce so large a crop.

The subdivisions I offer are **very superior** and are from young plants and **will give the best possible results**. No better can be obtained anywhere, if as good. I have known plants obtained from me to produce a larger crop than plants obtained elsewhere by the same man three months earlier.

The California Rhubarb Growers Association will market your crop for you and thus your marketing problem is already solved, and they will get you the top of the market for it. They cannot get anywhere near enough of it this time of year as the supply does not nearly equal the demand. This is the third year of the Association and it has been a great success, insuring profitable returns to the growers.

Better get started in this profitable crop this year; you cannot lose but are sure to win if your location, soil and climatic conditions are right and you give it the proper care.

There is no better intercrop for a young orchard—in fact, I know of no other intercrop that comes anywhere near approaching it.

(over)

A crop can be picked about four months after planting if plants are properly fertilized and cared for. I have planted in August and had a fine crop the following December. The best planting season for it in California is March 1 to Sept. 1.

I have never known of any injury to rhubarb from insect pests.

PLANTING AND CULTURAL DIRECTIONS.

For rhubarb culture I have found sandy loam or silt soil best. **The drainage must be perfect.**

The ground should be plowed as deeply as possible before planting. If you manure the ground before planting, spread the manure on the ground before plowing and plow it in, or plow deep furrows where the rows are to be and put the manure in the furrows and then cover with soil.

I set the plants 2 feet apart in the rows and space the rows 4 feet apart: with the rows 4 feet apart you can irrigate with a single furrow between the rows after the plants reach bearing size, whereas it takes two furrows to get the water close enough to the plants when the rows are 5 feet apart. It takes about 5000 plants per acre, set 2 x 4 feet apart.

I set the plants on the level, leaving the tops of the plants sticking out above the ground and then furrow out for irrigating close to the plants on both sides of the row, covering the plants completely with soil. I set them with a dibble.

Irrigate as soon as possible after planting, letting the water run until the ground is thoroughly soaked clear up around the plants; this is of the utmost importance to secure a good stand.

Keep well cultivated and hoed and irrigate as often as necessary to keep the plants growing vigorously, but don't irrigate too often as too much water in hot weather is injurious to the plants. On the other hand, don't make the mistake of not giving them enough water. As a rule once a month is often enough but of course conditions vary and it might be necessary to irrigate oftener sometimes.

Rhubarb needs plenty of fertilizer high in nitrogen, like fresh manure, dried blood, tankage, guano, cottonseed meal and nitrate of soda. Apply nitrate of soda sparingly, 100 lb. to 300 lb. per acre, and repeat after every picking or every other picking, depending on how much you use at one time. It is best not to use it alone but with manure or some other organic fertilizer.

In applying commercial fertilizers I furrow out on both sides of the row, drop the fertilizer into the furrows by each plant, cultivate it in and then irrigate thoroughly. I have got a fine crop in six weeks from dried blood and in four weeks from nitrate of soda. In applying manure I spread it on the ground between the rows and cultivate it in.

In gathering the crop for market the stems are pulled off. Lay them in a pile as you pull them and when you have enough for a box cut off the leaves with a butcher knife or slicing knife, leaving an inch or two of the leaf on the stem. I pack them in the field as I top them, thus saving an extra handling. When a box is full I cover it with leaves to prevent the stems from wilting, and when I have a load haul them in on a sled and nail them up. Leave the old and undersized stems on the plants as defoliating them too much prevents the next crop from coming on so soon.

Some cows eat the leaves with great relish and when fed with hay they make a fine ration and produce an abundance of milk.

Boxes or crates can be obtained from the Los Angeles Basket Co., at the Wholesale Terminal Market, Los Angeles.

PRICE-LIST OF PLANTS (Subdivisions).

For Delivery in May, 1921

6 postpaid	\$ 2.00
12 postpaid	3.00
100 express collect	10.00
1000 express collect	75.00
5000 express collect (enough for 1 acre)	325.00
10000 express collect (enough for 2 acres)	600.00
25000 express collect (enough for 5 acres)	1375.00
50000 express collect (enough for 10 acres)	2500.00

Terms: One-third cash with order, balance before shipment.

A planting of rhubarb will last for many years and you should get the original cost of the plants back several times over the first season after planting. Better send in your order NOW if you want to be sure of getting any plants as my supply is limited and there are good prospects of my selling all I can spare; there is one party who may take them all.

W. A. LEE
COVINA, CALIFORNIA